

The following is published in New York because only one Boston paper would print it:

\$5,000 NEWS.

Here is the tale, the untalculated tale of King-Crowther, reproduced from to-day's New York Sun. The New York Sun which shines for all; which hands out its rays alike to the good and to the now-will-you-be-goods; which to-day focuses the tight-rope walkers of haute finance as they "on with the dance" from mountain peak to mountain peak, and to-morrow the cave-men as they toil at the forge in their efforts to brass-leaf tin whistles into double eagles of the realm.

That great daily whose proud motto is "If you see it in the Sun it's so-long-skiddo-2-3-times" opened wide its glim on Boston and one of its kerosenated get-rich-quick stock hatcheries to-day. The migratory effervescing effect was like unto that produced when His Royal Hooflets

drops a brandy caramel upon the glowing lid of his sulphurous cooking range.

It is perhaps unnecessary to call the attention of the American people to the oft exploited fact that the Sun is religiously reliable, resiliently revealing and retentively responsible. Certainly its revelation below is remarkable.

If any man, monkey or zooglean can show me its equal, I will pay over to him or to it the sum of \$5,000 and no questions asked. I will not bar from competition the late Mrs. Howe's bank or the recently passed-on 520 per cent. Miller's banklet. One and all send in your applications by way of the United States Mail, plainly addressed to WILLIAM W. WHITE, not forgetting to mark same care of THOMAS W. LAWSON.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

My attention having been called to an attempt upon the part of a band of professional crooks to impugn the motives of Willie White, I herewith give notice to all interested parties, including the United States Post Office authorities, that I assume full responsibility, legal and other, for all acts of said Willie White, past, present and future, including offers of rewards.

Boston, March 8, 1907.

THOMAS W. LAWSON.

NEW YORK SUN EXPOSE OF KING-CROWTHER.

BRING CASH IN FULL BUCKETS

AND GIVE IT TO KING—CARDENIO F. KING—WHO WANTS IT.

Ante is \$70 a Share Now for King-Crowther, and if You Don't Hurry It Will Be \$100—Which Would You Rather Give Him?—There's \$2 a Share Coming Back—A Few Discoveries at the Oil Centre, Crowther, and a Few More When That Ancient Rascal Ex-Gov. Moses Died.

The many friends of C. F. King of Boston who have been intrusting their savings to him for some years now in return for lithographed stock certificates in his King-Crowther Corporation have just learned from Mr. King that he has completed preparations to go to Texas and that he intends to remain there until he has some big progress to report to them.

Mr. King has not been in Texas for some time. He is going down there now to find out evidently why there are not more wells spouting oil, why the town of Crowther is not a flourishing community with a railroad connecting it with the outside world and why there isn't a water system and an ice plant earning big dividends there—all of which things he predicted some six years ago when he offered King-Crowther stock to the public at 50, 60 and 75 cents a share.

Mr. King—Cardenio F. King his name is—has been too busy selling stock in various companies to visit the town and surrounding country so beautifully described by himself in offering these shares to the public. Now that the King-Crowther Company has been revived he thinks it is about time to go down himself and hustle things along. Recent reports from outside were that Crowther was still on the map of Texas, that there were a few two room frame "cottages" there, an old building called the "dog house," occupied by a few natives; a cheap frame building set on posts called a "hotel" and a water system consisting of two wagons and some mules, a small reservoir and two wells three miles apart. Then there was a small ice plant, a quantity of pipe and thirteen "wells." A little oil has flowed from two of these, which has been announced to the public, but there has been an over-supply of nice salt water from most of them.

There is no railroad connecting this Eldorado of oil, as King described it when he started in to exchange nice lithographed stock certificates covered with pictures of derricks to the public at 50 cents a throw. There is no pipe line either to convey the oil from the gushing wells to civilization. It is a two days journey from the nearest railroad to Crowther if the rivers are such that they can be forded, but King will be there soon, and no doubt the rivers will go down for him.

Before going down to Texas Mr. King is going to distribute \$2 on every share of stock in the new King-Crowther Company to the thousands of persons who were touched by his descriptions of the oil fields and of the thriving town of Crowther six years ago and gave up their money. That is, he is going to give them what would be \$2 on every hundred shares they bought then, or two cents on every share, for the present company has \$100 shares, while the old company's shares were \$1 apiece. In the various reorganizations most of the people who gave up their money to King have been induced to put in more to save what they had put in already. Consequently the promise of \$2 back to be paid on March 15, before King goes down to Texas, is very grateful to them.

Of course, after this dividend is paid the oil king says that he is going to ask more money for his shares, if he sells any at all. Mr. King started out by offering stock in his new company for \$50 a share, then he hiked this to \$65 and then to \$70, which meant considerably larger returns. But on Saturday, when the books close for the dividend, the price per share will be lifted again, according to his latest announcements, to \$100 a share. And so that people may see what a chance they may be missing, the announcement of this increase and of the dividend is concluded thus:

"This is final. This is the finish. This is the end. The curtain is ready to be lowered and it will drop with the rush of a storm."

It might be wondered how an oil company that went down with a crash several years ago after the State of Texas charged it with being a fraud on the public could have been revived and made to pay 8 per cent. dividends. No statement of the earnings is made to outside inquirers at any of the offices where Mr. King is busy daily handing out stock certificates in exchange for the greenbacks of the public, and no detailed statement of earnings appears to have been made to stockholders; but one is promised shortly after some more stock has been sold and the dividend is paid. According to Mr. King's latest announcements, the company now has more than 400 wells in Indiana and Ohio fairly gushing with oil. These wells, that are producing oil in such quantities as to make it possible for Mr. King to pay a 2 per cent. "quarterly" dividend and make good his old claim that money put in his hands was better than left in the savings banks, Mr. King says, are

mostly located in Randolph, Wells and Delaware counties, in Indiana. The production of oil there is not heavy now and many of the oil companies have been going into receivers' hands. Strange enough, too, reports from these counties are generally to the effect that this 8 per cent. dividend paying company is not known. A few places seem to have heard of it, though.

With business so brisk in Indiana and Ohio it may seem strange that King is going to Texas, unless it be that the oil needs him there before it will spout and earn money for his stockholders.

LONG RENT OF THE DOLLARS IN THE STOCKS. Mr. King's rise as a receiver of the public's savings in return for stock certificates in alleged oil properties since the authorities in Texas accused his King-Crowther corporation of being a fraud is interesting. Just now Mr. King has large offices in Boston and New York, where he is busy taking in the money for this stock, and gets out two newspapers in Boston, one of which is sent free to any person who looks promising. He has agents canvassing small towns and looking up people whose names have been secured and the agents get commissions on the amounts they get people to exchange for stock certificates. Boston has been this oil king's home since he began to tell what he was going to do in Texas. Lately the money has been rolling in in such quantities that Mr. King is said to be negotiating for a residence in New York.

Mr. King doesn't pretend to know a lot himself about oil. He was formerly a newspaper man, he says. One of the assertions he is fond of making in his advertisements as a reason why the public should buy his oil stock is that he was the author of a three column account of a great railroad wreck in North Carolina in 1892 that was printed in The Sun. The wreck evidently referred to by Mr. King was on August 28, 1891, and The Sun contained half a column about it.

It was in 1901 that King started his King-Crowther corporation. Since then he has been getting the dollars of the public, with one brief period of obscurity. That was when the original King-Crowther went down with a crash.

This company was capitalized at \$3,000,000 with \$1 shares. Its stock was sold all over New England and New York State. The town of Crowther in Texas, named after one of King's partners, was pictured as a thriving town with a forest of oil derricks. A railroad had been planned, so the oil king announced, the contracts had been let for its construction and the sound of puffing locomotives would be heard any minute at Crowther. Then there was the King-Crowther Pipe Line Company, that was to take the oil from this inexhaustible oil belt. King sold the stock at bargain prices.

RECEIVER FOR A PHENOMENAL SUCCESS. Nothing was done toward paying dividends then, but just to show investors that there was something doing a contract was made for some rails. The company gave a draft for \$2,500 to bind this contract and failed to pay the draft. But the contract was shown to doubters and so were letters written by the concern that was to supply the rails. Then King issued dainty red bordered notices to stockholders to what their peddles. They read thus:

Now that the King-Crowther Corporation has passed its experimental stage and its stock is recognized as a secure investment, and not a hazardous speculation, my only remaining ambition is to see it pay to all stockholders 100 per cent. annually in honest dividends.

That was in February, 1902. In long page advertisements in the newspapers the statements were made that the King-Crowther Corporation was "a phenomenal success from every point of view."

A receiver was appointed for it in July, 1903, and then King proceeded to put the blame on his partner, Sam Crowther. It was all Crowther's fault, King told the stockholders. Crowther had been the former owner of the 7,000 acres that the company advertised it owned in fee simple. He had also secured the leases to some 80,000 other acres. The town of Crowther had been named for him, and then Crowther and Mrs. Crowther had had the honor of being its principal inhabitants. The company he had organized, King explained after the blow came, had issued all its stock to Crowther in return for the leases and the land, and then Crowther had given back to the company 1,000,000 shares of stock, which was the stock King had been selling.

It was Crowther, King said, who was behind the receivership proceedings. There was a decided lull in the advertising campaign after this and stockholders were at a loss to understand for a while what had become of the bustling town of Crowther, its great oil wells and C. F. King. Then they began to get more notices and statements showing that things were coming to life again.

One of these statements filled with figures pretended to show the condition of the company, one item of which was a debt of \$48,000 owed to C. F. King for cash advanced by him. According to this statement, \$221,000 had been received from stock sold and more than \$100,000 had been spent in advertising. Just to show the stockholders that they still had something there was a nice little table of assets amounting to \$3,294,944. The real estate and leases were put down at \$2,000,000, the clay in the ground called kaolin was put down at \$200,000, "tested and completed wells" \$150,000, the town of Crowther \$100,000, and the stock unsold to the public at \$783,799. This statement was dated on July 3, which was a few days before the receiver was appointed.

SEND IN A FEW MORE DOLLARS. Following this a reorganization committee was appointed in which King did not appear. Then came the announcement that if the people who had bought stock from King wanted to save the valuable property in Texas and keep the

great town of Crowther on the map, they had better get stock in the Boston and Texas Corporation, which had been formed to take over the property. This company was also a \$3,000,000 corporation and was to pay off the \$100,000 claims against the property. Every stockholder would get share for share for his old holdings, provided he sent cash for an equal amount of new shares in the new company. The stockholders were told that if they held 100 shares and put up \$20 more they would not only be entitled to 200 shares in the new company, but "will have stock four times the value of the old."

For some of the stockholders who complained of having to put up more money a nicely worded circular was drawn up. It stated that Crowther had done what he had done through bad advice rather than from any desire to embarrass the great corporation they had put their money in. As the shares of the new company were much more valuable than the old, this circular said, people who didn't put up any more money would receive only half the number of shares they held in the old concern.

Most of the stockholders, not wanting to see their holdings cut down one-half, sent along more money. There was no mention made of King then. Inquirers were told that he had been eliminated. It was, of course, somewhat of a shock when Mr. King emerged from obscurity and sent a notice to the persons who had given him some of their savings offering to sell them more stock. It was stock of the Boston and Texas Corporation that he offered this time, the stock that they had been told was worth twice what their old stocks had been worth. Most of the stockholders had paid from \$1 up to King for their old certificates, but just as a little fly King offered them Boston and Texas for 15 cents. This offer made by King resulted in a row, and things looked shaky for a while. The oil king and foe of high finance was even charged with acting in bad faith by S. A. Hopkins, his closest associate in the past and the treasurer of all his companies. The stockholders were told in circulars that if they bought stock from King at any such price as 15 cents they might get into litigation.

And while they were digesting this and wondering where they stood along came an statement from King. In this he took back his offer and announced just to get back at his old friend Hopkins that Hopkins had himself offered to buy all his Boston and Texas stock for two cents a share. Mr. King charged all kinds of things against some of his former associates, the same men who are now helping him sell stock in King-Crowther again. He pledged himself to see that the San Antonio and Crowther Railroad was commenced in four months; that a pipe line was built immediately and that things went on with a rush. If the plans he had in mind should be carried out, he said to the people who had bought stock of him, there ought to be a good rich, fat dividend coming to them before Christmas of 1905.

NOT ASHAMED OF HIMSELF. None of these things has happened yet, but it wasn't long before a new company was formed and the stockholders had a chance to get a new deal in nice lithographed certificates of stock showing oil wells and prosperity in Texas. The new company was the King-Crowther Corporation. King was president, Hopkins treasurer and all was peace and harmony. The announcement sent to the different people in the villages and cities of New England and other sections of the country who had bought stock of Mr. King back in 1901 was to the effect that at a meeting of the stockholders held at Crowther in January, 1906, and by a subsequent resolution of the board of directors all of the property of the Boston and Texas Corporation "is now being conveyed and transferred to the King-Crowther Corporation."

The first King-Crowther Corporation was a Texas corporation, but Texas had taken away its charter because it was held to be based on fraud and misrepresentation and to have violated the law in regard to the amount of paid in capital. The Boston and Texas Corporation chose South Dakota for its home and the new King-Crowther Corporation, stockholders were informed, had been born under the laws of that another State, the State of Maine.

"The King-Crowther emerges from all the mauling and sandbagging with a record of which it is not ashamed," wrote Mr. King to those who had trusted him with their savings and instead of dividends had got notices of new companies and new deals too intricate for the uninitiated to follow. "The rights of every stockholder in the property from the smallest to the greatest have been at all times protected to the utmost. Methods of 'frenzied finance' have had and shall have no place in the administration of your great property with its untold millions of natural wealth."

The directors of this new company were, besides King, George C. Boggs, described as the president of a bank in Finleyville, Pa.; S. A. Hopkins, once a newspaper man, associated with King; Robert Sherwood of Brooklyn, John Thompson of Quebec, Francis Van Dresser, a farmer of Westerville, N. Y.; Edward Gilliam, William T. Soule and A. E. King of Boston, all old friends of King.

THE SPLITTING PROPERTY BUSINESS.

The circular sent to stockholders informed them that not only had the property of the Boston and Texas Corporation been turned over to the new company but that the McKellen Ice Company and the Texas Tri-County Water Company had also changed hands. These were companies supposed to be serving the flourishing town of Crowther with water and ice, doing such a business that a dividend had been paid on the ice company's preferred stock on September 30, 1904, before the company even had the machinery for making ice at work. All of those touched by the descriptions of the oil boom down in Texas and the charming location of Crowther and its great industries as painted by King in half page advertisements had been asked to buy stock in these great public service corporations in Crowther, and a good many were holders of such stocks. They had received notices, too, that these companies had been turned over to the Boston and Texas company at meetings of stockholders held at Crowther.

The splendid hotel property at Crowther City, which was constructed and operated as a private enterprise, said this circular, issued last April, "is likewise being conveyed to the King-Crowther Corporation." Although the reorganization committee had informed the stockholders that the property was being practically cleared of debt, it turned out that there was still a little debt of \$70,000 owed to a supply firm in San Antonio and another one of \$20,000 owed to Sam Crowther. This was to be paid and the property cleared of debt.

The new company was capitalized at \$3,000,000, with shares at \$100 apiece, and all stockholders who had \$1 shares in the

old companies to exchange were urged to bring their holdings up to even 100 share lots. Then Mr. King made the announcement that as everything had gone well those whose shares had been cut in two by the old reorganization would get their original number back again.

This, of course, was better than nothing to some of the stockholders who had become dissatisfied and most of them accepted Mr. King's kind offer and some were induced to put in more money so as not to have uneven lots in the new company.

This offer to the stockholders to restore to them the stock that had been taken away from them was made in April. Then Mr. King began to paint again in the newspapers pictures of the wonderful fortunes to be made in oil and to describe Crowther as having four great oil wells, producing the very highest grade of lubricating oil, thirty or more "comfortable cottages," with one splendid hotel property, a modern ice plant and all the comforts of home.

The development work, which was commenced in that section of Texas five years ago by the King-Crowther Corporation and since continued by its successor, the Boston and Texas Corporation, has brought about a new and better condition for all the country round about, said the oil king after announcing the success of his latest stock transfer scheme and putting an initial price of \$20 a share to the public who hadn't got in on any of the old ones. He even asked investors to pay a visit to Crowther.

LOOKS BETTER FROM A DISTANCE, LIKE SOME OTHER PAINTINGS.

As a journey there and back costs several hundred dollars and means a two days' wagon trip if the rivers are fordable, it is said that none of the stockholders save a few of the directors and employees of King has visited the region as yet; but one man who did visit it just when King made this announcement in the advertising columns of most of the newspapers found that there was a "hotel" set on piles with eight foot board partitions, an ice plant in which the machinery had not been set up, four two room "cottages" made of plain boards, with tar papered roofs, an old building called the "dog house," occupied by the workmen, who were not doing any work, Sam Crowther's own house, containing himself and Mrs. Crowther and a water supply system. This consisted of a forty foot square reservoir and three wells three miles away from it, with no power to pump water. There were nine pipes driven down for oil. Oil was said to be flowed at one time from two of them, but one of the drillers said that after twelve barrels had been filled from one of these two it had run dry. But the twelve barrels flowed, while they did flow, at the rate of fifty barrels a day, which sounded well in Boston. According to the drillers, the region at Crowther was what is known as "flooded," that is, that whatever oil is struck is quickly sopped by the flow of water. Two months ago the number of pipes driven into the ground to get oil for the stockholders had increased to thirteen and some lumber had been hauled into the town as evidence that prosperity was at hand.

ODD PAPERS FOUND ON THE DEAD MOSES.

One of King's old friends, Col. Franklin J. Moses, ex-Governor of South Carolina, unfortunately died suddenly at Wintthrop, Mass., last December. Col. Moses, who had been convicted as a forger and had spent some time in penitentiaries, was found dead with the gas turned on in his house there. He had been a soliciting agent for King. When the police searched his room they found a lot of interesting papers, so interesting that they were taken by Medical Examiner Harris, who turned them over to the Boston police. They in turn turned them over to District Attorney Moran of Boston, who still has them.

These papers consisted of various letters from one King to Moses and other matters concerning the attempt being made to sell stock in King-Crowther and other companies to the public. One was a long list of names and addresses of people residing in various small places in New England. Besides the names and addresses there were descriptions of each person, the amounts they were supposed to be good for, etc. Such lists are frequently found by the police and the Post Office inspectors. There were reports made by Moses on these papers and letters from King regarding them. There was also a recommendation by Moses that this same King should return \$3,000 to one person who had bought stock, as lawyers were understood to be out looking for such claims.

The same King agreed with Moses and instructed him to turn over the money. The accounts kept by Moses with this same person were curious in that they showed that from the amounts received from each person there was first deducted a 10 per cent. commission to be paid to Moses and then a sum for dividends. The company was credited with the balance apparently.

When it became known that the authorities had these papers C. F. King of King-Crowther and his associates were so interested that they sent their lawyer, J. T. Auerbach, a member of one of the old reorganization committees, to inquire about them. Whether or not Mr. Auerbach wanted the papers turned over to him is not known, but at any rate they are still in the custody of the authorities.

Only one Boston newspaper had anything to say about such papers being found. Then it printed a story with names alleging that the papers had been found and had been sought for by the counsel of a widely known promoter. Mr. King has denied the great deal of advertising since last December, but immediately following the account of the discovery of Col. Moses the Boston newspapers received half page advertisements regarding the wonderful progress of King-Crowther and expected benefits to stockholders. Mr. King has been booming oil in this form ever since. He has announced recently that he has 1,500 stockholders on his books, representing every State in the Union, with holdings running from \$100 to \$100,000, a great deal of which, he says in a tribute to himself, has been won from banks and trust companies; that money is pouring in daily, and that King-Crowther is earning 15 per cent. and now going to pay 8 per cent.

There was a man in our town,
And his name was Willie White.
He walked the curb with a plumb line gait,
And begrudged no man his bite.
But his tootsies had a saucy curve;
They carried the sign "I fight."
The man who treads on me or mine
At morn or noon or night—
Oh, Willie, Willie, Willie White,
You're a troublesome, wrangling kid.
Why can't you tend your bobbing kite,
And let what's done be did?